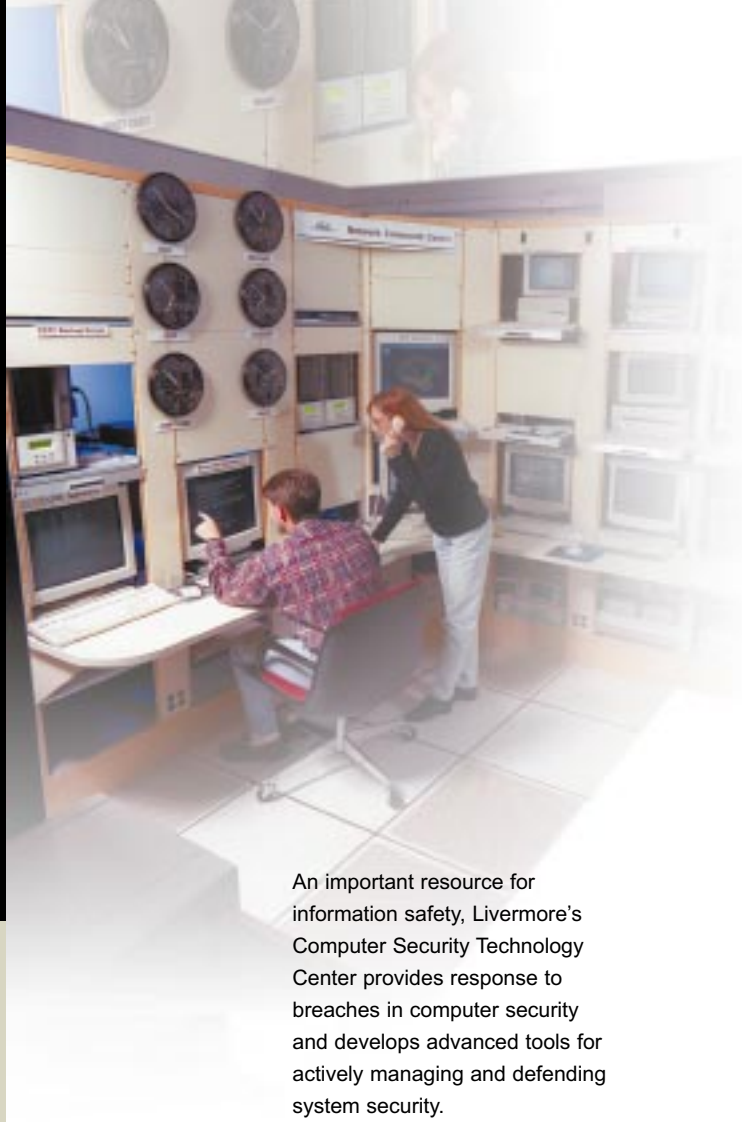
Secure, Safe Operations and a Good Neighbor

Security and safety are the most important considerations in day-to-day operations. Protection of sensitive information, nuclear materials, and other valuable assets at the Laboratory is a critically important responsibility. So is safety. The Laboratory is committed to providing every employee and the community with a safe and healthy environment in which to work and live. We are implementing DOE's operational concept, Integrated Safety Management, to improve safety awareness and ensure that safety stays a top priority.

Environmental protection is also an important aspect of our operations and our commitment to being a good neighbor. We are making great strides in cleaning up the Livermore site. We broadly contribute to the high-tech, global-outlook atmosphere of the region. Our technical expertise, science education efforts, and the many volunteer activities by Laboratory employees are important parts of being a good neighbor.



An important resource for information safety, Livermore's Computer Security Technology Center provides response to breaches in computer security and develops advanced tools for actively managing and defending system security.

Laboratory Improves Security Performance

Working closely with Secretary Richardson and other senior DOE managers, Livermore, Los Alamos, and Sandia national laboratories defined and expeditiously executed in 1999 a series of measures to tighten security. Protection of sensitive information and special nuclear materials at the laboratories is vitally important, and we are using increasingly sophisticated measures to provide it. All facets of our security triad—physical security, computer security, and counterintelligence—were thoroughly reviewed during the year. Steps are also being taken to implement tighter personnel security, including limited use of polygraph testing. Through new investments, revised procedures, and a greater security awareness by all employees, the Laboratory has adjusted to new security threats and concerns and addressed identified weaknesses. In December 1999, each of the three laboratories was rated "satisfactory" in overall security performance—the highest on a three-tiered rating scale.

Integrated Safety Management Off to Good Start

Livermore is implementing DOE's Integrated Safety Management (ISM) System based on a set of work standards that were developed in partnership with DOE's Oakland Operations Office and the University of California. The Work Smart Standards were accepted, and ISM implementation began in August 1999. We have set a goal—safety performance comparable to the best of our peers—through top management leadership, clear definitions of responsibilities

and performance expectations, and accountability. At Livermore, we have tended to focus our attention on special hazards associated with high-technology research projects. However, we can and must do better at preventing minor accidents connected with day-to-day activities.

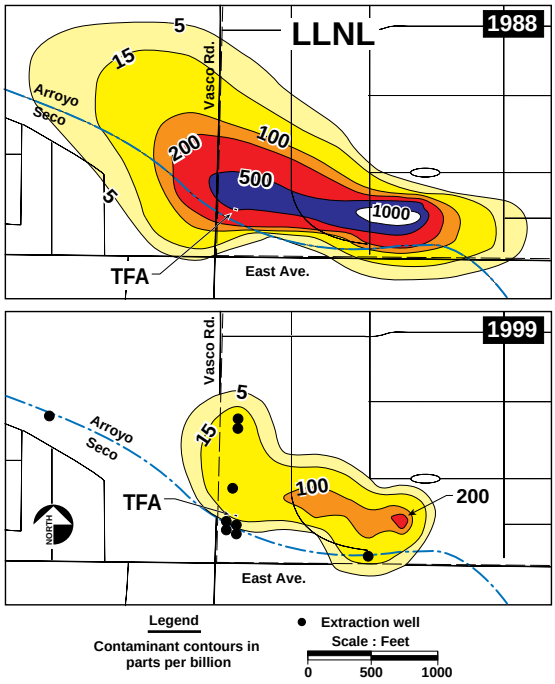
Training in ISM was completed by all employees in September. Livermore's implementation of ISM is currently undergoing verification by DOE. In a two-week-long review of the first phase, in December 1999, the verification team noted a strong ISM commitment by senior managers and identified a number of noteworthy accomplishments.

Groundwater Cleanup Way Ahead of Schedule

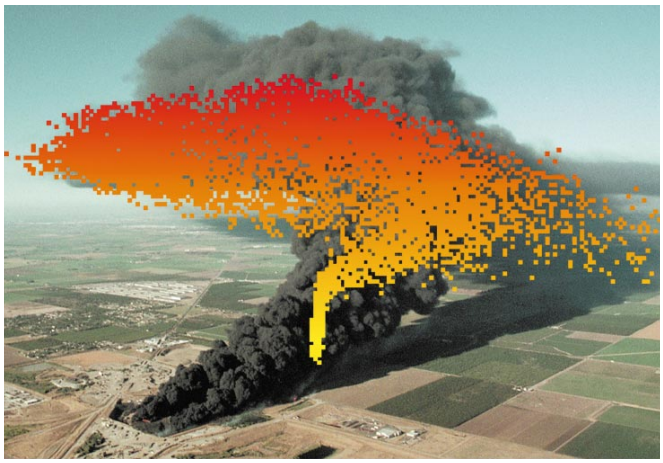
In July 1999, the Laboratory treated its billionth gallon of groundwater contaminated with chemical solvents. Ten years into the cleanup process, more than 425 kilograms of contaminant have been removed. We predict that the work can be completed almost 20 years ahead of schedule. Discarded solvents used in the 1940s while the site was a Naval Air Station and during early Laboratory operations seeped into the groundwater. A contaminated plume of groundwater stretching almost one-quarter mile beyond the Laboratory's perimeter was discovered in the 1980s. Although contamination was not a health risk to the surrounding community, cleanup began in 1989. Now the plume's outer edge in the shallowest water-bearing zone has been pulled back to within yards of the site boundary. Most of the contamination that remains is close to the regulatory limit.

Laboratory Employees Donate $1.2 Million

The annual campaign to Help Others More Effectively (HOME) raised for Bay Area and Central Valley charity organizations $1.2 million in 1999, breaking last year's record of $1 million. HOME is but one example of many outreach activities that include employee participation in community economic development organizations; environmental, health, and safety working groups; and educational activities such as science fairs and student and teacher programs.



A plume of contaminated groundwater that is beneath the Laboratory has been shrunk much faster than originally predicted using innovative solar-powered treatment units and fixed treatment facilities.



Livermore's Atmospheric Release Advisory Capability (ARAC) responds to atmospheric release emergencies worldwide. After a large fire began in a tire disposal pit near Tracy, California, we forecasted smoke dispersion and particulate concentrations in the Central Valley, thus helping California state agencies to alleviate the public's concerns about health effects.